

blade means, for spreading and smoothing said third layer of said joint compound.

14. An apparatus for taping joints between pieces of wallboard comprising:

a taping head means slidably contactable with a wall, 5
for substantially simultaneously applying a first layer of a joint compound to a joint between pieces of wallboard, embedding a wallboard tape in said first layer of said joint compound, and overcoating said embedded wallboard tape with at least one 10
additional layer of said joint compound;

a handle, connectable to said taping head means, for supporting said taping head means, said handle being manually graspable by an operator, said handle having fluid conduit means formed therein for 15
passing joint compound to said taping head means; tape supplying means, mounted on said handle, for supplying wallboard tape to said taping head means;

backpack means, wearable by said operator, for supporting a supply of said joint compound and for producing a pressurized stream of said joint compound; 20

flexible connecting means for fluidically interconnecting said backpack means and said fluid conduit 25
means to pass said pressurized stream of said joint compound from said backpack means to said fluid conduit means;

a first support plate, attached to said handle;

a guide means, attached to said first support plate, for 30
guiding a wallboard tape of predetermined width being applied to a joint;

first orifice means, attached to said first support plate, for feeding a first layer of joint compound to a surface of said wallboard tape intermediate said 35
joint and said wallboard tape, said first orifice means fluidically connected to said fluid conduit means;

a second support plate, releasably attachable to said handle; 40

biasing means, attached to said second support plate, for yieldably urging said wallboard tape and, hence, said first layer of joint compound, into contact with said wall, when said taping head means is in contact with said wall, to embed said 45
wallboard tape in said first layer of joint compound;

second orifice means, formed in said second support plate proximate said first support plate, for overcoating said wallboard tape with a second layer of 50
said joint compound, said second orifice means having a width greater than said wallboard tape, said second orifice means being centered, widthwise, with respect to said guide means;

first passage means, formed in said second support 55
plate, for fluidically connecting said second orifice means and said fluid conduit means;

first gate means, pivotally connected to said second support plate for pivotal movement between a first position and a second position, said first gate means 60
preventing flow of joint compound through said second orifice means when in said first position and allowing flow of joint compound through said second orifice means when in said second position;

second biasing means for yieldably purging said first 65
gate to said first position;

third orifice means, formed in said second support plate remote from said first support plate, for over-

coating said second layer of said joint compound with a third layer of said joint compound, said third orifice means having a width greater than said second orifice means, said third orifice means being centered, widthwise, with respect to said guide means;

second passage means, formed in said second support plate, for fluidically connecting said third orifice means and said fluid conduit means;

second gate means, pivotally connected to said second support plate for pivotal movement between a first position and a second position, said second gate means preventing flow of joint compound through said third orifice means when in said first position and allowing flow of joint compound through said third orifice means when in said second position;

third biasing means for yieldably urging said second gate means to said first position;

first resilient wiper blade means, mounted on said second support plate intermediate said second orifice means and said third orifice means, for spreading and smoothing said second layer of said joint compound; and

second resilient wiper blade means, mounted on said second support plate on the opposite side of said third orifice means from said first resilient wiper blade means, for spreading and smoothing said third layer of said joint compound.

15. An apparatus for taping joints between pieces of wallboard comprising:

taping head means, slidably contactable with a wall, for substantially simultaneously applying a first layer of a joint compound to a joint between pieces of wallboard, embedding a wallboard tape in said first layer of said joint compound, and overcoating said embedded wallboard tape with at least one additional layer of said joint compound;

a handle, connectable to said taping head means for supporting said taping head means;

tape supply means, mounted on said handle, for supplying wallboard tape to said taping head means; supply means for supplying a pressurized stream of joint compound to said taping head means;

said taping head means comprising:

a first support plate attached to said handle;

guide means, attached to said first support plate, for guiding a wallboard tape of predetermined width being applied to a joint;

first orifice means, attached to said first support plate, for directing a first portion of said pressurized stream of joint compound to a first surface of said wallboard tape intermediate said joint and said wallboard tape such that a first layer of joint compound adheres to said tape;

a second support plate releasably attachable to said handle;

applying means for applying said wallboard tape against said wallboard joint, when said taping head means is in contact with said wall, to embed said wallboard tape into said first layer of joint compound;

second orifice means, formed in said second support plate proximate said first support plate, for directing a second portion of said pressurized stream of joint compound to a second surface of said wallboard tape with a second layer of joint compound; and